

## Message Text

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65-61  
ORIGIN EA-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-05 ISO-00 OES-02 EUR-03 SSO-00 /014 R

66610  
DRAFTED BY: EA/VN:RHWENZEL:BK  
APPROVED BY: EA/VN:RHWENZEL  
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O 242115Z MAR 75  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
INFO RUFHAU/USMISSION IAEA VIENNA IMMEDIATE 4522  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065363

LIMDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 065363 ACTION SAIGON 22 MAR REPEATED  
CINCPAC 22 MAR

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065363

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: TECH, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM RESEARCH REACTOR SECURITY

REF: STATE 62177

1. THE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH NUCLEAR  
MATTERS ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED THAT THE NUCLEAR REACTOR  
AT DALAT MIGHT FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE  
OR THAT ITS HIGHLY RADIOACTIVE FUEL MIGHT BE DISPERSED  
DURING POSSIBLE COMBAT IN THE AREA. NEITHER THE REACTOR  
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NOR ITS FUEL HAS ANY MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE BUT LOSS OR DIS-

PERSAL OF THE FUEL COULD WELL JEOPARDIZE IMPORTANT DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR INTERESTS. PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON AN URGENT BASIS:

A. HAS GVN TAKEN ANY STEPS THUS FAR TO REMOVE FUEL FROM REACTOR SITE IN ACCORDANCE WITH PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED EVACUATION PLAN? IF SO, WHAT ACTIONS WERE TAKEN AND WHERE IS FUEL NOW LOCATED? (FYI: FUEL IS TECHNICALLY PROPERTY OF USG. END FYI.)

B. IF FUEL STILL IN REACTOR, CAN GVN STILL TAKE ACTION TO REMOVE IT? E.G., CAN MILITARY ACADEMY PERSONNEL AT DALAT (WHO HAVE TECHNICAL BACKGROUND) REMOVE FUEL AND SEE THAT IT IS TRANSPORTED TO SAIGON OR TO OTHER SECURE LOCATION?

C. ALTERNATIVELY, CAN MILITARY ACADEMY PERSONNEL OR CIVILIANS IN DALAT UNDER TECHNICAL SUPERVISION ARRANGE TO FILL REACTOR TANK WITH CONCRETE TO IMMOBILIZE FUEL? (THIS SHOULD BE LAST RESORT.)

2. WE ARE NOW CONSIDERING PLANS TO SEND IN EQUIPMENT AND PERSONNEL TO DALAT VIA AIRLIFT TO TAKE ACTIONS OF THE KIND NOTED IN B OR C ABOVE, IF THIS SHOULD BE NECESSARY. OBVIOUSLY WE DO NOT WISH TO TAKE SUCH STEPS IF NOT ESSENTIAL. NEED EMBASSY RESPONSE IMMEDIATELY SO THAT ABOVE ARRANGEMENTS, IF REQUIRED, CAN BE MADE ON A TIMELY BASIS.

INGERSOLL

UNQUOTE. INGERSOLL UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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